

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 7, 13 and 18.

1. (original) A method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver, comprising the steps of:

providing a male body that is sized to be received by an inside perimeter of the female cavity;

applying a quantity of lubricant to an outside surface of said male body; and

inserting said male body into said the female cavity when the female hitch receiver is not in use.

2. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

providing a means for withdrawing said male body from said female cavity.

3. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

providing an end cap for said means for withdrawing said male body.

4. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

forming a retention hole through said male body, inserting a fastener through said retention hole and a retention pin hole in the female hitch receiver.

5. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 4, further comprising the step of: providing one of a plastic dowel or plastic tube for said fastener.

6. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 1, further comprising the step of: providing grease for said quantity of lubricant.

Claim 7 (canceled)

8. (original) A method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver, comprising the steps of:

providing a male body that is sized to be received by an inside perimeter of the female cavity;

applying a quantity of lubricant to an outside surface of said male body;

providing a means for withdrawing said male body from said female cavity; and

inserting said male body into said the female cavity when the female hitch receiver is not in use.

9. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

providing an end cap for said means for withdrawing said male body.

10. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 8, further comprising the step of:  
forming a retention hole through said male body, inserting a fastener through said retention hole and a retention pin hole in the female hitch receiver.

11. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

providing one of a plastic dowel or plastic tube for said fastener.

12. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 8, further comprising the step of:  
providing grease for said quantity of lubricant.

Claim 13 (canceled)

14. (original) A method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver, comprising the steps of:

providing a male body that is sized to be received by an inside perimeter of the female cavity;

applying a quantity of lubricant to an outside surface of said male body;

forming a retention hole through said male body, inserting a fastener through said retention hole and a retention pin hole in the female hitch receiver;

providing means for withdrawing said male body from said female cavity; and

inserting said male body into said the female cavity when the female hitch receiver is not in use.

15. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

providing an end cap for said means for withdrawing said male body.

16. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

providing one of a plastic dowel or plastic tube for said fastener.

17. (original) The method of protecting a female cavity of a female hitch receiver of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

providing grease for said quantity of lubricant.

Claim 18 (canceled)